

## Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

**WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS** to our church services. You are invited to pray with us at Liturgy and every service. Please note that Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians. Our non-Orthodox guests are welcomed to receive blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

If anyone has any questions on the Liturgy or the Orthodox faith, please feel free to talk with Father John after services or give him a call.

### GENERAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 6:00pm Vespers

**Sunday:** 9:30am 3rd & 6th Hours / 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.peterandpauloca.org](http://www.peterandpauloca.org)

**CHURCH FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulBuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulBuffalo)

**PARISH PRIEST:** Rev. Fr. John P. Hutnyan

CELL: 716.681.0302 EMAIL: [humblservant@live.com](mailto:humblservant@live.com)

**CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Reader Paul Trinca

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Martin Napierski, President

**SISTERHOOD of the Protection of Most Holy Theotokos:**

Nadia Ryan, President CELL: 716.228.2277



### THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

#### The Most Blessed Tikhon (Mollard)

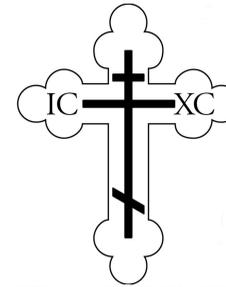
Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

#### The Most Reverend Michael (Dahulich)

Archbishop of New York, and New York and New Jersey

*The Mission of the Orthodox Church in America, the local autocephalous Orthodox Christian Church, is to be faithful in fulfilling the commandment of Christ to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*

## Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



45 Ideal Street, Buffalo NY 14206

Mailing Address: 44 Benzinger Street, Buffalo NY 14206

Rectory Phone: 716.248.1306

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

**Rev. Fr. John P. Hutnyan, Parish Priest**

**CELL PHONE: 716.681.0302**

**EMAIL: [humblservant@live.com](mailto:humblservant@live.com)**

June 2021

Come, O people,

let us worship the Godhead in three persons:

the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit.

For the Father timelessly begot the Son, co-eternal and co-enthroned with Him;

and the Holy Spirit was in the Father and is glorified with the Son.

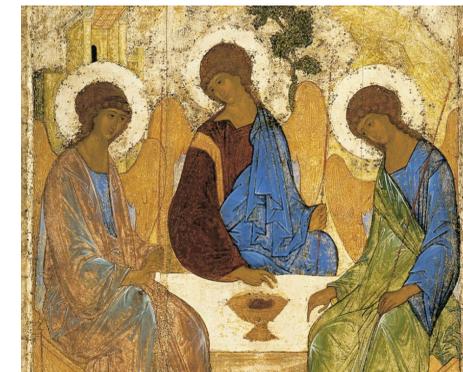
We worship one Power, one Essence, one Godhead, and we say:

"Holy God, You created all things through your Son with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Mighty, through You we know the Father; through You the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the world.

Holy Immortal, Comforting Spirit, you proceed from the Father and rest in the Son.

O Holy Trinity, glory to You!" (*"Lord, I Call" verse from Pentecost*)



# Announcements...

**BASKET DRAWING:** Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraiser. Many thanks to Nadia Ryan for organizing this event.

## **NO KNEELING in the ORTHODOX CHURCH**

(or at home for prayers) from Pascha Sunday until Pentecost Sunday (June 20th this year). Special kneeling prayers are then taken on the Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Pascha).

**NO FASTING** the week after Pentecost — namely June 21-26 — because of the Feast of Pentecost, which the Church teaches us of this Feastday's importance.

## **CHURCH SPECIAL CLEANING—JUNE 19th:**

We will be cleaning the church basement and the parish hall basement on Saturday, June 19th starting at 10am. Lots of sweeping, washing, etc.

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:** Why not become a hostess/host for our Coffee Hour Lunch after Divine Liturgy one Sunday? See Nadia Ryan or Chris Metz or Matushka Nancy if you can help us out or you just would like to make one of your special dishes or desserts! Don't like/want to cook or bake? Bring in some bagels, cream cheese, donuts—lighter, easy clean-up coffee hours are welcomed!

**ST. ANDREW'S CAMP** — Our diocesan camp has a great need for a new kitchen, dining hall, and activities center. Archbishop Michael is asking for parish organizations, community

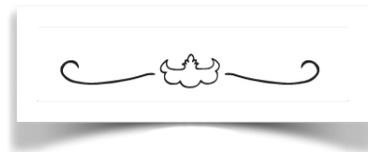
patrons and other individuals who have been blessed by God to consider donating to this Charity Project.

Every gift toward this project is for the benefit of the children of our diocese and an investment in the future of our Holy Church. All contributions should be made payable to "St. Andrew's Camp," earmarked for "Building Project". **There is still time to donate. We will be sending in all the donations before the end of June.**

**GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE** is held every 1st Sunday of the month at **9:25am**. Confessions are also heard before Vespers on Saturday evenings and also before the Divine Liturgy on Sundays.

**THANK YOU** to all those who have been sending in your weekly/monthly offerings. As you know, the expenses of our parish continue even though some of us are not back to church yet.

**IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE** who should or could be attending Divine Liturgy, please invite them to come and pray with us. If they need a ride, possibly one can be arranged for them.



## **Ascension of the Lord**

Forty days after Pascha we commemorate the Ascension of Christ, one of the major feasts of the Orthodox Church. Since the date depends on the date of Pascha, it is a movable feast, but it is always celebrated on a Thursday, found in Acts of the Apostles 1:4-11, Mark 16:19 and Luke 24:50-51. Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives and commissioned them to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Christ was then taken up toward heaven and out of the disciples sight. The icon conveys Christ's sovereignty and guidance over the Church. We see Him blessing with His right hand and holding a scroll, a symbol of teaching, in His left hand.

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### **A Prayer for Guidance and Peace**

In all humility we pray to You and we entreat You, Who are the source of wisdom, bless and grant perfect health of mind and body unto our President and all leaders of our nation. Direct, O Lord, their thoughts to the way of truth, so that they may enact, order and enforce whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are just, tending toward all excellence and virtue, Enlighten them to govern our country with justice and to lead our people in the ways of Your righteousness, Send to us and to the whole world a just and lasting peace to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

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### **A Prayer to the Theotokos**

Make us worthy of compassion, O Theotokos, Who are a source of tenderness. Look upon a sinful people and manifest Your power as ever. For, hoping on You, we cry out aloud to You as Gabriel once did: Hail, chief among the bodiless powers; hail, you Who are full of Grace; hail, unwedded bride. Amen.

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Remember that God, during your prayers, is watching for your affirmative answer to the question which He is inwardly asking you: "Do you believe I am able to do this?" To which question you must, from the depth of your heart, reply, "Yes, Lord" (Matthew 9:28). — *Saint John of Kronstadt*

## **Feast of Holy Pentecost**

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the 50th day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha and 10 days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

## DIVINE SERVICES for JUNE 2021

**June 5, Saturday:** 6:00pm **READERS VESPERS**

**June 6, Sunday:** *Sunday of Man Born Blind*

9:25am **General Confession Service/Reading of Hours**

10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

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**June 9, Wednesday:** 6:00pm **VESPERAL LITURGY** for the Feastday of Ascension of our Lord

**June 12, Saturday:** 6:00pm **VESPERS**

**June 13, Sunday:** *Sunday of Holy Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council*

9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**

10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

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**June 19, Saturday:** 6:00pm **VESPERS** with All Souls Memorial Service

**June 20, Sunday:** *Pentecost—Feast of the Holy Trinity / Fathers Day*

9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**

10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY** with Kneeling Prayers / Memorial Service for all departed fathers, grandfathers, godfathers

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**June 23, Wednesday:** 6:00pm **VESPERAL LITURGY** for the Feastday of Nativity of St. John the Baptist

**June 26, Saturday:** 6:00pm **VESPERS**

**June 27, Sunday:** *All Saints Sunday*

9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**

10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

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**June 28, Monday:** 6:00pm **VESPERAL LITURGY** for the Feastday of Ss Peter and Paul

## *An Extended Family in Christ* by Alyssa Loutsion Kyritsis

I grew up in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. To this day, the majority of my family still resides there. Yes, I know in my heart that my family extends much further than that. I am speaking, of course, of my church family. Perhaps like many of you, I have had the blessing of attending various Orthodox churches throughout my life. Whether I moved for school or for a job, whether I was on vacation or merely wanted a new experience on a Sunday morning, I knew that with the help of God (and Google Maps) I could find an Orthodox church nearby. This concept of “church family” never sunk in until I moved to Jacksonville, Florida, and began working at Saint John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church. I noticed my priest always referred to his parishioners as his “church family.” Naturally, I assumed he meant he was related to a large portion of the congregation because I had never heard the concept before. However, I soon discovered that it was much deeper than that.

The more time I spend with my fellow parishioners, the more I realize just how much Father's words ring true. The children of the parish quickly became my children. When they lose a tooth, they bring it in so I can see it and guess how much money the tooth fairy will leave them. The high schoolers leave for college, and I cry when saying goodbye. The adults of the parish became my parents, sending me cards on my birthday and checking in with me if there is a horrible storm nearby. The “yiayias” and “pappous” (grandmothers and grandfathers) became my own and the young adults became my siblings. We celebrate birthdays together, mourn losses together and, most importantly, pray together. Though we all come from different backgrounds, we are indeed a church family, and one that I cherish dearly.

Isn't this what Christ encourages for us that we become a family with everyone? These relationships that we foster within our respective churches can teach us so much about who Christ yearns for us to be. In the parish, we are surrounded by people who share our same values, which is hard to come by otherwise. Though we are all falling and struggling with sin, we are able to work together as a team and encourage each other toward salvation.

When we are baptized and chrismated into the Orthodox Church we joined one of the most beautiful and traditional faiths ever established. However, what we may fail to understand is that this concept of family within the church extends far beyond the limits of four walls. The world we live in today has seen so much pain and suffering. It's easy to get caught up in the mayhem and focus on the negative. There is still so much good in the world and so many people who embody God's word. That goodness is a light that can illuminate the darkness we constantly feel swallowed up by, and it is an extension of God's great love for us.

*(continued)*

*("An Extended Family in Christ" continued)*

The man who pulled over to help me with my flat tire? He is my family. The men and women who sacrificed their lives for me and my country? They are my family. The children who went to a nursing home to sing? They are my family. Christ tells us, "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50). He does not limit this family to Orthodox Christians. Instead, He is referring to all His people: those doing the good work of Christ are our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. They are indeed our family.

It is so beneficial for us to form relationships inside the Church. It molds us into Christ-like beings with firm foundations in the truth of our faith. However, we must remember that our work is not complete. We must take this truth and share it with the world, extending our family to the ends of the earth. Christ tells His disciples to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). What better way to preach the Gospel than with the love of a family?

I encourage us, as Orthodox Christians, to grow our families even larger. Look past the labels of "Greek" or "Orthodox." Reach out beyond the limits of our congregations and minister to anyone you encounter. Who knows? You may be the family that person has been yearning to find, the one that everyone deserves.

*Alyssa Loutsion Kyritsis currently serves as the Pastoral Assistant at Saint John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, Florida. She graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology with a Master of Divinity in 2014.*

### **Birth of Saint John the Baptist - June 24**

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1:7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder.

But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, which is the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation.

Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80). His name is a variation of the Hebrew "Johanan," which means "God is gracious."

## A FATHER'S PRAYER by General Douglas MacArthur

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Let him learn to stand up in the storm; let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, I have not lived in vain.

